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wherein the AGRs are interconnected across the ATM network by virtual trunks and are arranged to function as a distributed narrowband exchange to set up narrowband connections across the ATM network.

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11. (Amended) A telecommunications system as claimed in claim 1 including means for determining the current traffic status of the system whereby to effect routing of narrow band traffic across the system.

Cancel claims 12 and 13 without prejudice.

Amend claim 14 as follows:

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~~14.~~ (Amended) A method of routing telecommunications traffic in a system comprising :-

an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) network; and

B3
a plurality of adaptive grooming routers (AGRs) coupled to the network, each AGR comprising an ATM switch including at least one adaptive virtual junctor (AVJ) for adapting narrowband traffic received at said AGR to/from the ATM adaptation layer,

wherein the AGRs are interconnected across the ATM network by virtual trunks and are arranged to function as a distributed narrowband exchange to set up narrowband connections across the ATM network.

Cancel claim 15 without prejudice.

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